

REMARKS

The claims have been amended with respect to antecedent basis matters and to place claims 10 and 13 in proper dependent claim format.

The Applicants hereby elect Invention I, claims 1-7 and 10-14, with traverse. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, as follows.

It is noted that the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 is incorporated in each of claims 10 and 13. Accordingly, a search for claims 10 and 13 would necessarily involve searching for the subject matter of claims 8 and 9.

It would therefore not require a burdensome search to examine the various claims of the noted Groups in the same application.

MPEP §803 states:

"If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added)

Moreover, from the standpoint of costs to the Applicants involved in filing, issuance and maintenance fees relating to separate applications if the present Restriction Requirement is maintained, it is clear that there is substantially more burden on

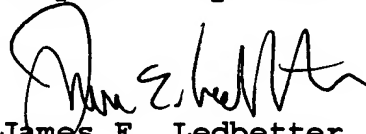
Applicants by imposing the present Requirement than on the Patent Office if the Requirement were withdrawn.

In addition, it is noted that to require the claims of the various Groups to issue in separate patents would result in inconvenience to the public by necessitating reference to more than one patent during searching, to review closely related subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is warranted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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